

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9326

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 414

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT SHUM CZ YO

SUBJ: YUGOSLAV TREATMENT ON CZECH EVENTS

REF: PRAGUE 186

1. YUGOSLAV PRESS HAS REPORTED ON CHARTER 77 DEVELOPMENTS
ON DAILY BASIS AND WITH SLANT WHICH MUST CAUSE THEIR
CZECH COMRADES HEARTBURN. FOR EXAMPLE, TANJUG FROM
PRAGUE TODAY NOTES THAT "RUDE PRAVO" HAS WRITTEN
THAT "NOBODY IN THIS COUNTRY WILL DISCUSS AND, EVEN
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LESS, COMPROMISE" WITH DOCUMENT'S SIGNATORIES. TANJUG
STATES TTHAT "RUDE PRAVO" ARTICLE CONSTITUTES REPLY
TO JIRI PELIKAN PIECE IN IL MESSAGGERO WHICH SAID THAT
SIGNATORIES WHO WISH TO START A DIALOGUE WITH GOC
WERE "ANSWERED BY A CAMPAIGN IN THE SAME TONE AND SAME
LANGUAGE AS IN 1968." TANJUG NOTES THAT HUSAK MET
WITH PRAGUE AND BRATISLAVA DISTRICT AND CITY COMMITTEE

SECRETARIES TO DISCUSS "POLITICAL-ORGANIZATIONAL AND IDEOLOGICAL TASKS RELATED IN PRAGUE WITH THE BROAD CAMPAIGN AGAINST " CHARTER 77 AUTHORS.

2. BOTH "BORBA" AND "POLITIKA" JANUARY 20 PUBLISHED IDENTICAL PRAGUE TANJUG REPORT ON "RUDE PRAVO'S CONFIRMATION OF APPEALS TO BRANDT, KRIESKY, PALME, AND OTHERS WHO ARE ASKED TO "USE THEIR INFLUENCE" TO PROTECT PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS. STATES "RUDE PRAVO" "ENERGETICALLY REJECTS 'THE SO-CALLED MISSION OF GOOD WILL', QUALIFYING SUCH AN ATTEMPT AS 'INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA!'"

3. ITALIAN, FRENCH AND OTHER WESTERN CP PROTESTS HAVE ALSO BEEN CARRIED BY YUGOSLAV PRESS.

4. NIN IN ITS JANUARY 23 EDITION PUBLISHES FOREIGN EDITOR MAROVIC'S COLUMN ENTITLED "DEBATABLE FREEDOMS" WHICH IS LENGTHY EXPOSITION ON THE INSEPARABILITY OF FREEDOM AND SOCIALISM. MAROVIC STATES THAT "FREEDOM AS AN IDEA AND PRACTICE IS EVIDENTLY STILL DEBATABLE" AND CITES AS DIFFERENCES IN INTERPRETATION OF THE TERM CHARTER 77 DEVELOPMENTS, THE POLISH "COMMITTEE FOR THE DEFENSE OF WORKERS", AND THE PETITION IN EAST GERMANY TO RETURN TO WOLF BIREMANN HIS CITIZENSHIP. MAROVIC SAYS THAT WHILE IN POLAND AND EAST GERMANY "THE ACTORS ARE PUBLICALLY CENSORED BUT THE EXPLANATIONS AND CAUSES OF THESE PHENOMENA ARE CONCURRENTLY SOUGHT," ON THE OTHER HAND IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ALL CHARTER 77 SIGNATORIES "HAVE CONFIDENTIAL

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BEEN PROCLAIMED 'AGENTS OF IMPERIALISM'."

5. COMMENT: YUGOSLAVS WHO HAVE BEEN CARRYING ON LENGTHY POLEMICAL BATTLE WITH CZECHS OVER "PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM" INTERPRETATIONS, OBVIOUSLY DO NOT MIND EMBARRASSING CZECH LEADERSHIP BY CONTINUING TO REPORT ON CHARTER 77 DEVELOPMENTS. ONE NEWSMAN TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT YUGOSLAVS RELISH THE WESTERN CP PRESS CRITICISM OF THE GOC SO THAT THEY CAN CARRY IT STRAIGHT-FACED IN YUGOSLAV PUBLICATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME THIS IS TRICKY ISSUE FOR LCY AND GOY AS THEY HAVE THEIR OWN POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND THEIR OWN LIBERALS ALSO SEE IN THIS YEAR OF CSCE IN BELGRADE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK OUT. IN FACT, BEST KNOWN POLITICAL PRISONER MIHAJLOV NOW ON HUNGER STRIKE AND GETTING AMPLE WESTERN PRESS ATTENTION. DELAYED YUGOSLAV REJOINDER TO MIHAJLOV AND WESTERN ATTENTION WAS CARRIED IN "BORBA" JAN 19. OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV AMBIVALENCE AND WORRY THAT WE MAY EXPLOIT ISSUE HERE EXEMPLIFIED BY BELGRADE TV COMMENTATOR

VITTOROVIC'S REMARKS TO PAO THAT RFE AND WEST CAUSE
OF CZECK DISSENT.
YORK

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